

## Transcription: Paul Eldridge

---

*Today is Wednesday, March 16<sup>th</sup>, 2001. My name is James Crabtree and this afternoon I'll be interviewing Mr. Paul Eldridge. Mr. Eldridge is at his home in Texarkana, Texas, and I'm at the General Land Office Building in Austin, Texas. This interview is being conducted in support of the Texas Veterans Land Board Voices of Veterans Oral History Program. Sir, thank you very much for taking the time today to talk to us. It's always an honor for us anytime we can speak to a Texas veteran, and I guess the first question is just tell us a little bit about your childhood and your life and your background before you went in the military.*

**Paul Eldridge:** OK, well my full name is John Paul Eldridge. I was born in Texarkana, Bowie County, Texas, on November the 5<sup>th</sup>, 1934. I was raised here in Texarkana until my graduation from high school in May of 1953. My father was a local businessman and co-owner of the city bus line. I had four siblings, two older and two younger, and was raised by both parents. In May of 1953, I graduated from a Catholic high school which I attended all 12 years. In September of '57, I enrolled at the University of Texas in Austin in a pre-engineering program, and had a struggle from then until 1957 when I finally was put on scholastic probation and had to leave the university for a year.

*And that's when you got drafted?*

**Paul Eldridge:** No, well actually after I left there, I had gone up to being a senior engineer candidate, and after I was removed from the University of Texas, I went to Dallas, or actually Grand Prairie, Texas, where I'd taken a job as an engineering detailer which essentially was a draftsman with Chance Vought Aircraft Corporation in Grand Prairie, and I worked there for about 12 or 15 weeks through training and began doing engineering detailing, which is correcting of engineering drawings of the aircraft parts, until the corporation lost a big contract with the Navy for building a new aircraft, and therefore I was discharged. After that point I became eligible for the draft, and was drafted in September.

*Did you expect to be drafted?*

**Paul Eldridge:** Well, I had been called a month before to get my physical, so I knew that I was eligible for the draft and I had expected to be drafted, yes.

*I think a lot of people don't realize that there was a peace time draft even in the late 50s. Did you have many friends or relatives that had been drafted during that time?*

**Paul Eldridge:** No, the only relative I had that was in the service was my older brother, and he had joined the U.S. Air Force, and I guess due to a cutback he had been discharged, but then joined the Texas Air National Guard and went through regular flight training, and became a U.S. Air Force Reserve, or National Guard, I've forgotten which, pilot, and so he was the only relative of mine that ever was in the service.

*To backtrack a little bit, you mentioned working for Chance Vought Aircraft, and that was in Grand Prairie, was that next to the old Dallas Naval Air Station?*

**Paul Eldridge:** Yeah it was, in fact they used the same, Chance Vought Aircraft had what they called pilots to test their aircraft and what not, and they used the Grand Prairie and the Naval Air Station runway, and so it was just right adjacent to it.

*That's interesting. I belong to a Marine Reserve unit now that is based there in Grand Prairie at the old Naval Air Station, Dallas, and there is on Jefferson Road, there is still a Vought aircraft facility, although I don't know how many people actually work there any longer, I know several of the buildings have big banners up saying that they are for sale by the General Services Administration, and the base itself is closed and there's just a few reserve units that are still there.*

**Paul Eldridge:** Is that right? I was going to say that I think my brother after he got through with his training returned to I believe the same naval air station where he flew I guess it was National Guard or Air Force Reserve aircraft for air defense. But I think he flew out of the same naval air station. I do know that subsequent, long after I was released from Chance Vought Aircraft, it changed hands and became an entity called Ling-Temco-Vought, and they went into other manufacturing besides aircraft. I don't know what the present status is, if it's still operated.

*What was a day like for you there? I know you said you were a draftsman. What was a typical day like for you there, because I look at that base now and a lot of it has been closed down and they don't use the runways anymore, and a lot of the hangars have been torn down, but I imagine at that time in the 50s it was probably a pretty booming place, is that right?*

**Paul Eldridge:** Oh yeah, it was thriving. My first introduction into the job was training. I was trained, of course I had had training in college as a draftsman, and then when I was employed I went through a training process called engineering detailing training, and after I completed that I was put on the assembly line down in the big assembly base, and I was one of many draftsmen who would correct drafting drawings whenever what they called a crab or a boog would come up, any consistence with manufacturing or good practice or whatever, they would revise it and make changes to whatever part or whatever situation it was, and then I was detailed to make the actual change on the drawing to reflect the actual manufacturing process. I did that for oh I'm sure a month or two. I had been hired in anticipation of the corporation acquiring a big contract for a new Navy aircraft carrier aircraft, but that fell through for some reason or other and they just lost the contract and then they discharged the whole group of us.

*So tell us then, I guess were you living in Grand Prairie when you were drafted?*

**Paul Eldridge:** Actually I lived in Oak Clift in Dallas.

*OK, south Dallas area. So you get the draft notice, does it come in the mail?*

**Paul Eldridge:** I'm sure it did, probably to my home.

*What were your thoughts at that point? Were you married?*

**Paul Eldridge:** No, I was quite single. I was resigned to my fate. I was -

*How long did you have from being drafted until you had to report?*

**Paul Eldridge:** I guess it was about a month or less because I do recall about a month before I had received a greeting and a notice to appear in Dallas to get my physical examination, which I did, and they declared me fit for service and then I just waited until that time.

*Did you own your home or were you renting at that point?*

**Paul Eldridge:** Oh no, I lived with my parents. Well actually I rented a room in south Oak Clift. Amazingly enough it was the same – while I was working at Chance Vought Aircraft, if I can mention an aside, there was a tornado came through Dallas and through Oak Clift, and believe it or not it came right up the same street where my room was. I was rooming with an old couple who was a retired preacher and his wife, and the tornado came down the street and about two blocks before it came to the block where I was, it took a right and went down to the next corner, and then proceeded up the street, and other than just debris it didn't bother where I lived, but boy, just tore the devil out of the neighborhood proceeding on. I recall at the time the preacher's wife saying that the preacher got out in the street and \_\_\_\_ the tornado and told it to leave and it shot down left and went down to the next street. At the time I didn't think, I thought oh yeah, uh-huh, but now it actually happened. Just an amazing little story of my experience.

*That is. So you get drafted, where is the first place they have you report to? Is it the processing center there in Dallas?*

**Paul Eldridge:** No, at the time I moved back home and of course that was my permanent home address, and when I received my notice I was told to report to some entity in Shreveport where I was inducted, in Shreveport, Louisiana. And I was immediately assigned to report to Fort Chaffee, Arkansas, for my basic training.

*What did you think when you arrived there the first day for basic training? What are your memories of that?*

**Paul Eldridge:** It was a real large base. It was humming, a lot of people there. The draft was very active during that period. There was a whole lot of draftees and a whole lot of enlistees, and although it was peace time draft, the base was fully operational, and just full of soldiers, full of recruits.

*Did you get there, did you arrive on a bus?*

**Paul Eldridge:** I'm sure I did. I don't recall exactly but I think I did, just individually.

*Do you remember when you got there meeting your drill instructors and that sort of thing? Was your head shaved, those sort of things?*

**Paul Eldridge:** Oh yeah, I went through all that, and one of my main drill instructor was a sergeant who was from Puerto Rico. He spoke broken English, and he was a Korean War veteran, as were a lot of the cadre there. So that was how I was introduced into the basic training.

*What were most of the recruits like in your platoon? Were they from the south or were they from all over the nation?*

**Paul Eldridge:** Well they were from different places. I don't recall any Yankees, but there may have been some. But I do recall there was one Puerto Rican kid, and he spoke broken English as well. I don't know whether he joined or had been drafted. There was no distinguishing between one or the other in the unit, and I remember I was placed in the acronym was B4BTC, which was I guess B4 unit of the Basic Training Command.

*Did your drill instructors know that you had been in college?*

**Paul Eldridge:** They may have. That didn't swing any weight with those people.

*I didn't know if that would get you more harassment by being a college person in basic training, especially in the 50s.*

**Paul Eldridge:** No, I don't recall anything in particular, just that we were all treated alike. I notice on my DD214 discharge paper that I was assigned to Company A, 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion, 1<sup>st</sup> Training Regiment – or no, I'm sorry, that was my transfer to my second 8 training. But anyway I attended my 8 weeks' training there, and during the time I recall I went to the ranger course for weapons training and received a sharpshooter medal.

*Did you know at that point what your specialty was going to be?*

**Paul Eldridge:** No, I had no idea. They didn't tell us and we didn't know. I had a suspicion and I don't know whether it was a quirk of fate or irony on the part of somebody higher up since I had been in college as an engineer, after my release from basic training I was assigned to this 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion, 1<sup>st</sup> Training Regiment at Fort Leonard Wood, which was a combat engineering battalion training. That's the worst period of time I've ever encountered in my life.

*That was your specialty, you were a combat engineer?*

**Paul Eldridge:** I was being trained for it.

*What was it that made it so difficult?*

**Paul Eldridge:** Well, it's just I'm sure you've been in the service yourself, right? Well, people in the service, they don't look on you as Private Eldridge or whatever, they look up on you as one of a mass of warm bodies. I think that's how they referred to us periodically. And it was just very regimented and the training sergeant that I had at Fort Leonard Wood was, well he was just what I call a hard ass, and he just, his job was to train, and by God, he did. If I'm not mistaken, we were the toughest trained unit in combat engineering training because everywhere we went we double timed, with high port with our weapons. We never marched anywhere, we always double timed. He was a tough fellow, and he didn't stand for no nonsense, and it was just very depressing. They kept showing us film and photographs of people who had stepped on land mines and been shredded, and then the rumor was during that period that we were, after our training we were going to Korea to dig up land mines. So I wasn't interested in doing that. So what eventually happened, I became good friends with another fellow who happened to be from Virginia, right below Washington, D.C., Fredericksburg, Virginia, and he was in the same situation. He had either dropped or flunked out of Virginia Polytechnic Institute, and he'd had a senior rating by that time, and he had been drafted, and ended up same situation as me at Fort Leonard Wood in this unit. He and I became good friends and began to cry on each other's shoulder, in fear for our future, and we ended up, I think it was mainly his idea, what we ended

up doing was going to the recruiting office on post, taking an immediate discharge, and an immediate reenlistment for three years, and were therefore eligible for a transfer.

*How did that work? How were you able to do a discharge that quickly? Was it because you were re-upping for a longer period of time?*

**Paul Eldridge:** Yeah, I was drafted of course for two years and my serial number was initiated U.S. numbers. After my immediate discharge and well – apparently the recruiters had the ability to re-enlist you essentially for a longer period of time, and so that’s what happened. And if you know anything about the service, recruiting officers will sell you the Golden Gate Bridge if you let ‘em. And my interest at that time was going into electronic training because I had been struggling to be an electronic engineer in college and I wanted to learn electronics. Of course he sold us a great bill of goods how if we were to discharge and re-enlist, he could place us at then Fort Myer, Virginia, which is -

*Yeah, close to where your friend was from.*

**Paul Eldridge:** Yes, about 30 miles north of Fredericksburg, and just really on the other side of the river from Washington, D.C., Fort Myer. He could get us there and we would get into at that time, there was a large anti-aircraft missile complex all around the Washington/Baltimore Air Defense. It was comprised of the Washington/Baltimore Air Defense System. It was a large, large endeavor to protect Washington, D.C. and Baltimore by anti-aircraft missiles, and he said I can get you in there and then you can apply for electronic training once you get there.

*So they allowed you to quit combat engineer training in the middle of it?*

**Paul Eldridge:** Yeah, they have no objection if you take on more military time apparently, and recruiters I guess have some ability to finagle things like that. There wasn’t any problem. We just stood before the man and received our discharge and re-enlisted for three years, at which point I got a 30-day leave, and it was around December, it was in December, December 14<sup>th</sup> in fact is when my discharge was. And the date on my DD214 says my enlistment date was December 15<sup>th</sup>, 1957, and I got a 30-day leave and came home to Texarkana and enjoyed Christmas, through Christmas, and then in January I reported to Fort Myer, Virginia, and a miraculous thing happened. My friend and I who re-enlisted together reported the same day to Fort Myer, Virginia, and came into the barracks, and immediately struck up friends with a couple of Yankee fellows. One was from Philadelphia who later became my best friend in the service, and he just happened to be real good friends with the sergeant that was stationed at Fort Myer in that unit that was in charge of placement. So we sat around that night, first night, talking about it and I told him all my plans and all that, and his best advice was, listen, don’t do that, don’t go to a missile unit which is out in the sticks. It’s just like pockets of military bases all around Washington/Baltimore, where the missile battalions and the missiles are. He said don’t go there, you’re not gonna get any training. All you’re gonna do is just be a deck ape, shining a missile, and working KP and stay on that little base for the next three years. If you’ll wait, I’ll tell you what, there happens to be an opening at an electronic radar repair unit in Fort Belvoir, Virginia, which is 15 miles south. So what I will do is assign you to that unit. It’s just a little, seven-man radar repair unit, and you can get all the on the job training you want there and you’ll learn electronics. At the same time, my friend that re-enlisted with me was assigned to the 71<sup>st</sup> Artillery Battalion, which was part of the anti-aircraft missile battalion, which wasn’t an aircraft missile battalion. So we both went to the same location at Fort Belvoir, and I was put in the 7<sup>th</sup> Signal Detachment, Fort Belvoir, Virginia, which was attached to the unit which later was

designated the 1<sup>st</sup> Missile Battalion. And he was assigned to the 1<sup>st</sup> Missile Battalion, so we were still barrack mates. Sure enough, true to life, I got into the seven-man signal detachment and immediately started learning how to repair radar, and I spent my nights reading technical manuals. I became quite proficient, quite a very good electronic training technician just by my own will.

*Did you enjoy that?*

**Paul Eldridge:** Oh yeah, I loved it. We were stationed at Fort Belvoir, but various missile units would call us out to the batteries, the little encampments in the woods that house the barracks and the missiles and all the men that dealt with it, they'd call us out saying our search radar has a problem with the identification friend or foe equipment, and that was the most common breakdown in those missile units would go out all the time. They had an electronic device attached to the search radar, and it was attached in such a position it revolved with the radar, and apparently that had something to do with the longevity of the workings of it, and so we were constantly having to be called out to different missile batteries to pull out the identification equipment. The equipment was used to identify aircraft. It would send electronic signals to various aircraft flying around and it would respond automatically to say that this is a friendly aircraft, don't shoot us down. And so it was part of the defense mechanism. So we went out all the time repairing these things. We also had two long-range search radar pieces that we had to repair. One was about 35 or 40 miles south. I'm trying to think of the name of the base it was on. I've forgotten now. But I do recall it wasn't a ford, it was a camp, so it would have been a temporary establishment which could be decommissioned. Oh, it was Camp A.P. Hill.

*Yes sir, I know where that is. Yes sir, it's still there.*

**Paul Eldridge:** I later discovered that A.P. Hill was a southern general. I thought that was amazing that they would name a U.S. Army post after a southern general.

*Oh, there's a whole bunch in the south. There's Fort Bragg and Fort Hood and Fort Polk, yeah, they've got a whole bunch for them.*

**Paul Eldridge:** That's true. To me that was amazing. But we used to go monthly to Camp A.P. Hill which I guess might have been 45-60 miles south, and do a checkup on this search radar which was coordinated with the whole missile defense system. So that's how I spent my time during the days, hanging around waiting for stuff to break down so I could go fix it.

*And were you there all the way until the end of your enlistment in 1960?*

**Paul Eldridge:** Yes. I had a very good tour, learned a lot, and I was very naïve in spite of being a senior at the University of Texas, I was a very naïve young man during the period, but I learned a lot and got a good experience and had a good tour.

*Did you ever have any thoughts of staying in longer or were you always set on getting out after that point?*

**Paul Eldridge:** Oh no, I had no interest. In fact I was offered an E5 sergeant stripes to re-enlist, but I had no interest in doing that. I wanted to return to college. In fact, during my basic training, I was offered the opportunity. I took testing as usual, and qualified, was offered the opportunity to go to officer candidate school, but I elected not to do that, too, because I didn't wish to -

*Sure, that would have been a lot more time.*

**Paul Eldridge:** I just wanted to go ahead and be with the regular boys. So I just went ahead through my basic and then through part of my second 8 at which point I was discharged and then reassigned to Fort Belvoir.

*So when you finally left the service in 1960, did you come back to Texas at that point?*

**Paul Eldridge:** Yes, I was discharged December 14<sup>th</sup>, 1960, and put in the stand-by Reserve.

*Did you go back to the University of Texas at that point?*

**Paul Eldridge:** Yeah I did. I came back in I believe, yeah, I was discharged mid-December and came back, and then the spring session started in January at the University of Texas at which point I enrolled and went to Austin and continued my college career.

*How did that feel to have taken, you'd been a college student, then you went off and did almost four years in the service, and now you're back at the same university? I would imagine most of the students you were in with were gone, but did you have any of the same professors or that sort of thing?*

**Paul Eldridge:** Oh yeah, I had this professor, cadre that stay there decade after decade, and I do recall one survey professor in particular that I had had twice, top surveying. I told you I received quite a bit of informal education during my period during that time. One of them was when I first attended the University of Texas, I went from a small Catholic school in Texarkana. In fact there were 12 people in my graduating class as a senior at the Catholic high school, and then I went to a very large college which at the time was a whopping 16,000 students attended the University of Texas in September of 1953. Presently the enrollment is something like 50,000. It's grown quite a bit. But I was put into, and in fact I was so deficient academically that I had to take a high school solid geometry course and I had to take a high school algebra course on the University of Texas campus in order to be eligible to go on to engineering school. I did that my first semester in '53. And I was amazed, it's amazing how bright some people are that you encounter at the university there, and then when I was drafted and put in the service I was amazed at how ignorant and how slow minded some people are in the world. I later learned statistically that by statistical definition half of the population in the United States is below average intelligence. That's the definition of average. I encountered quite a few of them in the service, that I had never encountered at the University of Texas. And so it's just an experience in life that I never would have seen had I not been drafted and gone through the service.

*When you were back at UT again, did you find classes easier having been in the Army?*

**Paul Eldridge:** Well, I'll confess, I've always been a very poor student. In fact I was put on scholastic probation twice during my career, and I was put on what they call it, scholastic – I was stopped from going to school twice because of my poor grades. It's not that I wasn't bright, it's just that I've just never been a very good student, never had that much of a zeal.

*So even after being in the Army and that regimented lifestyle, coming back to UT you felt it was still kind of the same for you.*

**Paul Eldridge:** Yeah that's true, I was still young and confused and pretty naïve even then, and was in fact put on scholastic refusal again one time for a year at which point I stayed in Austin and worked just various jobs, some menial jobs.

*Did you finally graduate from UT?*

**Paul Eldridge:** Oh yes, finally did in August of 1966. During that period I was doing pretty good in the engineering classes until I encountered advanced calculus and differential equations, and that separated me from the men, and at that point I realized I wasn't going to be an engineer. I just could not comprehend all that. And so amazingly enough, at that time they had a curriculum in the business department called engineering route to business. It was a specialized curriculum.

*So you must not have been the only one.*

**Paul Eldridge:** Oh no, there was quite a few. With 16,000 people, you're gonna find a mix of people that are brilliant and a mix of people that are just not good students.

*What I mean is you weren't the only one pursuing engineering that later they had to direct you into a different career path.*

**Paul Eldridge:** Not at all. We had quite a full, different classes in the different sections of business, and it was mainly time and motion study type of business curriculum, but it utilized my first two years of engineering schooling, and so that's why I switched to it. I ended up getting a degree in business in August of 1966.

*That's great. And then at that point you were completely out of the military, and I guess you said at a certain point you got an actual letter saying you were finally discharged from the Reserves?*

**Paul Eldridge:** Yeah, the letter says my date of discharge was 31 August of 1963. I do recall a time just immediately after my active duty discharge in January or February, spring of '61, and I don't remember exactly what it was that happened, but there was a big problem over in Europe. I think the Russians were rattling their sabers or something, something occurred. I don't recall the details, but I do recall items in the newspaper saying they may have to call up a bunch of Reserves. I don't know if I got a particular notice myself or if I just began to worry about it. I remember writing my congressman at the time who was the Honorable Wright Patman saying well I've served my three years and I don't want to go back in. He wrote a rousing letter saying well, we're glad to see a good patriot like you be willing to go back in the service if necessary, so stand by! But I never was called back in.

*So after you graduated, did you go back to Texarkana?*

**Paul Eldridge:** Actually the University of Texas.

*That's what I meant, after you graduated from Texas, did you go back to Texarkana?*

**Paul Eldridge:** No, well of course I went back to Texarkana, but I had kept up my friendship with this friend of mine from Philadelphia, and he had gone on back to college. He was once again a college student who had been drafted, similar to me, and I had met him at Fort Belvoir, Virginia, and after his discharge he had gone up to Philadelphia to live and gone back to Temple



University, acquiring a Bachelors in math, and I was still in service a year longer than he, and I used to go up just weekly or monthly, every other week, to visit with him and stay the weekend in Philadelphia and catch a straight train right to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania station in Philadelphia. So I just used to shuttle up there almost every weekend to visit with him and learn what Yankees were like, and a funny thing occurred to me during that period. I'd take a leave and come home and people would accuse me of talking like a Yankee!

*Yeah, I have a hard time seeing that.*

**Paul Eldridge:** I was determined to keep my southern accent, and of course I'd go up and they'd jive me for talking like a country boy. So it was an interesting experience. But I kept up my friendship with him and after my acquisition of a Bachelor's degree in business, I wanted to get into the graduate school of social work at the University of Texas while I was in my studentship there. I dated a girl who was apparently having some sort of mental difficulties or problems or what not. She used to go to the University of Texas health center for counseling, just mental health counseling. And I discovered through her that her counselor was a master of social work, and I thought boy, I'm acquiring my degree in business but I sure would like to be a master of social work, too, so I could get a job like that and counsel all these young blonds that come into trouble and need counseling like my girlfriend did. And so from that point on, I was determined I was going to become a social worker. And so at the end of my graduation, my grades were so poor that the University of Texas social work graduate department would not accept just C level grades. They wouldn't accept anything less than a B. And so I spent a long period of time just sending out applications to every graduate social work school I could think of to try to get into school. In the meantime, I went up to visit with my friend in Philadelphia and acquired a job right above Philadelphia as a welfare officer. At the time they had five categories of welfare, and I became a case worker who would go out to different people's houses in the area and qualify them to receive welfare status in the Pennsylvania state welfare department. That was a very interesting experience, too, because I saw firsthand ghetto life and minority life in the Philadelphia area, so that was quite an eye opening experience, too, but a nice experience. I enjoyed the job. But finally I was accepted by three greater schools of social work after my shotgun effect of just putting applications out in the general world. One was the University of British Columbia, and I had seen enough snow during my alma period, I didn't want to go to British Columbia to go to school. The second one I believe was a black university in Washington, D.C., I think it was called American University. The third one amazingly enough was Florida State University, which happened to be expanding the social work curriculum there and they wanted to gather in more students. So they accepted me as I was and that's where I ended up going. I worked for about I guess nine months as a case worker in the Philadelphia area and then in September of 1967 I went to Tallahassee and enrolled in the Florida State University in the School of Social Work and began my two-year graduate social work.

*During this time and even today, have you ever been involved in any veterans organizations like the American Legion or others? I know you mentioned you know a veteran, or I guess you do some veteran counseling now, is that right?*

**Paul Eldridge:** Well, I have. Believe it or not I was ineligible to join either the Veterans of Foreign Wars and I don't know, I believe I was also in that, on the American Legion. I was a peace time veteran.

*I know with the VFW you obviously have to have been in a foreign war itself, but with the Legion you just have to have served, but it has to have been during a period of time that they qualify as conflict time. But I don't know if you'd be eligible or not. I'd have to look at the regulations.*

**Paul Eldridge:** Well at any rate, no, I didn't join either of those, but I might say that after I finished my social work career, I ended up back in Texarkana after various other experiences, and believe it or not I became a bartender at the Arkansas side. You know, Texarkana is half Texas and half Arkansas, the two cities, twin cities. I ended up as a bartender at the local VFW on the Arkansas side for about a year, and these were old veterans, and it was a very interesting experience. But I was just a lowly bartender. I wasn't part of the veterans organization.

*Well sir, I don't want to take up too much more of your time, but I do want to thank you for letting us interview you. All these interviews we have here go into our archives, and we have archives here that date back to the Spanish Land Grants and the Land Grant that David Crockett's widow received after he was killed at The Alamo, and Stephen F. Austin's Registro and that sort of thing. So your interview is going to be added to that collection, and just wanted to thank you for your service on behalf of Commissioner Patterson and everyone here at the Land Office, we want to thank you for your service and thank you for letting us interview you today.*

**Paul Eldridge:** OK, well I sure appreciate the interview.

*Yes sir, and like I mentioned previously, we will be sending you in a week or so copies of this interview on CD as well as a nice letter and certificate from Commissioner Patterson.*

**Paul Eldridge:** OK, well I certainly appreciate it.

*Yes sir, so we thank you very much, and we'll be in touch as well, sir, because I know you have a couple of other veterans that we'd be interested in interviewing as well.*

**Paul Eldridge:** Yeah, I'll get back with you on those.

*Yes sir. Well thank you again very much and we'll talk to you soon.*

**Paul Eldridge:** Well thank you.

*[End of recording]*